II. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 33-42 are pending in the application. Claim 33 is independent.

Claims 33-42 were rejected as being unpatentable over Muftic, for the reasons noted at pages 2-5 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse all art rejections.

Independent Claim 33 recites a novel combination of steps for a business process for creating a secure game contract over a network. A game contract agreement is generated by determining a game contract rule set, determining a set of game expectations for one or more game contracting parties, and determining potential game contract outcomes. Initial game conditions are received for game contract generation from the one or more game contracting parties. The game contract activity is carried out according to the game contract rule set such that the one or more game contracting parties act in a synchronized manner according to the game contract rule set and the set of game expectations. A non-refutable game contract log is generated detailing all contract transactions. A theoretical game contract log is generated detailing expected game contract

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transactions based on the game contract rule set, the set of game expectations, and the game initial conditions. The game contract transactions recorded in the game contract log are verified by comparing the game contract transactions in the game contract log to the expected game contract transactions in the theoretical game contract log.

In contrast, none of the cited art (including Muftic) discloses or suggests such a combination of game contracting steps. Muftic relates to a network of clients and servers to permit secure electronic commercial transactions to be accomplished. The network includes a public key infrastructure, and electronic transactions can be securely performed utilizing smart token technology. Muftic fails to disclose or suggest generating a non-refutable game contract log detailing all contract transactions. The Office Action refers to a portion of Muftic where users log onto a server (Col. 12). However, logging onto a server is distinctly different from generating a non-refutable game contract log. Accordingly, the salient claimed features of the present invention are nowhere disclosed or suggested by the cited art.
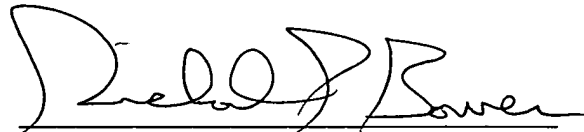
Muftic also fails to disclose or suggest the step of verifying the game contract transactions as recorded in the game

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contract log by comparing the game contract transactions in the game contract log to the expected game contract transactions in the theoretical game contract log, or the non-refutable nature of the game contract log, citing Official Notice. Applicants respectfully traverse the allegation of Official Notice, and respectfully request the Examiner to cite a reference or provide an affidavit as to these claim elements.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

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Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3507. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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